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SUBJECT: URUGUAY'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

REF: A) STATE 52628; B) STATE 53353; C) STATE 53346; D) MONTEVIDEO
0230

11. (SBU) Econoff delivered ref demarches to Ricardo Nario, MFA Director for International Economic Affairs, on May 22. Nario commented that the GOU is in full agreement on the need for a robust agriculture agreement through Doha. He praised U.S. flexibility in agricultural talks and saw the EU as the main stumbling block to an accord. He noted that an agreement this year would send an excellent signal to help resolve the food crisis.

12. (SBU) Nario also agreed with the USG position on export restrictions, pointing out that Uruguay does not impose import or export restrictions on food (see ref D). Regarding biotechnology, he noted that Uruguay's stand was midway between that of the U.S. and the EU. Uruguay has positioned itself as a "natural country", he said, a posture which ran somewhat counter to intensive GMO use.

BAXTER